

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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NEWS FEATURE

SHAD RETURN TO SUSQUEHANNA; REPORT ON RESTORATION PROSPECTS ISSUED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

A century ago, a man loaded into a baggage car of a westbound New York Central train a few milk cans with small shad he had taken from the Hudson River. When he got to California, he released them into the Sacramento River.

Eventually the descendants of those fish returned to the eastern seaboard, where in 1965 they became part of the Federal-State study financed by private power companies to determine the suitability of the heavily dammed Susquehanna River for restoration of shad.

"Shad eggs can hatch, larvae can develop, and juveniles can survive and prosper in most of the Susquehanna River," says the investigating team in a booklet issued today of results of the 3½ year experiment.

The 60-page booklet, which includes photos, tables, and maps, is entitled "Suitability of the Susquehanna River for Restoration of Shad." It can be obtained free as long as supplies last from Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The next questions to be asked, according to the report, are whether enough adult shad with a strong urge to migrate upstream are available, whether the designed fishways would attract fish, or whether adults would move efficiently upstream through reservoirs. "The broad question of the total desirability of installing one or more fishways on the Susquehanna... lies with the separate State and Federal agencies," the report states.

Other agencies cooperating in the study besides Sport Fisheries and Wildlife were Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, New York Conservation Department, Pennsylvania Fish Commission, and Maryland Board of Natural Resources.

Power companies which contributed \$196,500 for the study were Philadelphia Electric Co., Pennsylvania Power and Light Co., Safe Harbor Water Power Corp., and Metropolitan Edison Co.

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